



Nepal Stands up for Action Against Poverty



Front Middle: Hon'ble President of Nepal Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, Front Left: Vice Chairman of National Planning Commission Dr. Yuwaraj Khatriwada and Front Right: United Nations Humanitarian and Resident Representative for Nepal Mr. Robert Piper at the Stand Up function in the Presidential office.

Kathmandu, 16 Oct: In Nepal 2 million people showed solidarity and participated in 35 programs nationwide, during the Stand Up Against Poverty campaign on 16 October. This is up by .5 million of last year.

The President, Dr. Ram Baran Yadav read a Stand Up Pledge with members of the Constituent assembly at an event broadcast live on national television. In his pledge he said: "We are standing up today to express solidarity with people all over the world to fight poverty and inequality. We want to create a society where mothers don't die while giving birth. A society, where women's rights will be guaranteed and there will be no discrimination and violence against women. Children won't die due to lack of proper health care. Children will have the right to quality education. No one will die due to

contagious diseases. Overall environment justice and sustainable development will be ensured by conservation



A stand up event was held in Kathmandu's open air theatre.



Eight Constitutional Assembly members reading the stand up pledge at the open Air Theatre.

and proper use of natural resources. The decisions made by the policy makers will not be for their personal gain but for the benefit of the poor and marginalized people as well. The assistance promised by the global community for development will be continued. We are committed to build a just society through a new constitution. Let's all commit to achieve the millennium development goals not only for today but for every day".

This was followed by a concert in Tundikhel in Kathmandu, where the pledge was read by eight Constituent Assembly members amidst a variety of musical offerings, like rock satsang and dohori songs. Various other activities like rallies, village assemblies, talk programs, took place in places outside Kathmandu. The mobilization was organized globally by the United Nations Millennium Campaign, in partnership with a range of organizations including the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP).

United Nations Day observed



United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Robert Piper speaking at the UN Day event.

Foreign Affairs Ms. Sujata Koirala.

Kathmandu 23 Oct: The UN System in Nepal marked the 64rd Anniversary of the United Nations in the UN House amidst a programme in the morning of 23 October. The Chief Guest in the programme was Honorable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for

Also speaking on the occasion was UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Robert Piper and Representative of the UN Secretary General in Nepal Ms. Karen Landgren. The video message of Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was also screened. Some 800 participants consisting of Nepali ministers,



heads of constitutional bodies, diplomatic corps, donors, I/NGOs, civil societies, high officials of the security forces, media and the UN staff were present. There were 18 booths set up by various UN agencies to display their respective project activities in Nepal. A musical event depicting issues of diversification of Nepalese, development in Nepal was highly appreciated

by the audience. Besides, a young student was awarded as outstanding speaker on the issue of *Global Warming and Role of Youth* in a national school and college level debate contest. About 12 staffs from various UN agencies were honored for their dedicated service ranging from over 25 years up to over 35 years.

Pictorial of UN Day and Stand Up Against Poverty events.



Seminar on pro poor housing, water and sanitation services held in Kathmandu



Kathmandu, 31 Oct: On the occasion of World Habitat Day 2009 UN HABITAT Nepal with cooperation of LUMANTI Support Group for Shelter, NGO Forum for Urban Water and Sanitation, Municipal Association of Nepal, Habitat for Humanity, WaterAid Nepal and Freshwater Action Network (FAN) Nepal organized a seminar in Kathmandu on pro poor housing, water and sanitation services on 13 October, 2009. The day had been celebrated worldwide this year with a common theme "Planning for a better urban future".

The local government, civil society organizations and local community in six cities including Biratnagar, Bharatpur, Birgunj, Hetauda, Itahari and Kalaiya are working together to plan and taking actions to make these cities a better place to live for all and particularly the poor. This seminar had been held to share successful experiences of these cities in housing the poor and improving access to basic facilities such as water and sanitation, with policy makers and other stakeholders so that lessons learnt would pave the path towards planning for a better urban future.

Addressing the inauguration programme, Assistant Minister for the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works Kalawati Devi Pasawan requested all the stakeholders to keep poor and backwarded groups in prime consideration while implementing their shelter programme activities. She assured that the government of Nepal and political parties will provide support to the activities initiated to provide shelter to target groups.

Director General of Department of Urban Development and Building Construction Indra Bahadur Shrestha informed that the government will re-establish the squatters by providing them an alternative shelters. According to him, the process has already been initiated in Siraha, Saptari and Kapilvastu districts. He further added that the government has allocated a separate budget for this purpose.

Prafulla Man Pradhan, Programme Manager of UN HABITAT Nepal, believed that poor management of water and sanitation, and increasing environmental

pollution is the drawback of unmanaged urban growth in Nepal. In his opinion, un planned urbanization is the root cause of increasing crime and corruption in these cities.

Chief Technical Advisor for South Asia Region, UN HABITAT Dr. Roshan Raj Shrestha said that urban environmental pollution is a major factor contributing climate change, which is caused by uncontrolled and unmanaged urban development.

Karuna Paul, Country Director of Habitat for Humanity requested all stakeholders to implement shelter development activities in squatter and slum communities. Research and Advocacy Manager of WaterAid Nepal, Rabin Lal Shrestha told that the lessons learnt from experiences and challenges in big cities should be taken into consideration while planning for further urban development. At the programme, Executive Director of LUMANTI, Lajana Manandhar; Anil Sthapit of NGO Forum and Rajendra Aryal of FAN Nepal had also shared their opinion in regard of housing for urban poor.



Household drinking water treatment material distributed on Hand Washing Day



Kathmandu, 31 Oct: On the occasion of World Hand Washing Day 2009, Lalitpur Sub-metropolitan City (LSMC), Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO), and Urban Environment Management Society (UEMS) - partners of Partnership for Safe Water Campaign with support of UN HABITAT Water for Asian Cities Programme Nepal and Bottlers Nepal distributed household water treatment kits to 11 schools and 20 ward level health clinics of Lalitpur.

The distribution programme had been organized to raise public awareness on safe drinking water, health and hygiene at school and community level so as to bring the behavioural change, and reduce the outbreak of water and sanitation borne diseases.

During the programme, bio-sand filters with 50 litre capacity, 61 colloidal silver filters, 1200 SODIS bottles and chlorine solution to Lalit Bikas Lower Secondary School, Shree Padma School, Shree Mahendra Bhrikuti School, Krishi Udaya Primary School, Shree Shanti School, Kumbheshor Lower Secondary School, Shramik Primary School, Shree Bal Bidyashram, Mahalaxmi Lower Secondary School, Swotandra Shikcha Sadan and Shree Panchakumari Primary School. Likewise, twenty colloidal silver filters were also provided to ward level health clinics of Lalitpur.

Speaking at the programme, Chief Executive Officer of LSMC Binod Prakash Singh told that the simple household water treatment options should be promoted widely to access safe drinking water for all. He also requested all the stakeholders to work hard for increasing accessibility of poor communities to safe drinking water service.

Distributing the water treatment kits to 20 different

schools of Lalitpur, Maheshor Sharma, under secretary of District Education Office, Lalitpur told that water and sanitation (WATSAN) activities in schools will help to improve WATSAN sector.

Promotion of PoU (Point of Use) drinking water helped to reduce water borne epidemics in Lalitpur, opined Lekhnath Panthi, Health Assistant at Public Health Branch of LSMC. Padmaja Shrestha, programme manager of ENPHO and Dal Bahadur Sintang, Executive Director of UEMS explained about various WATSAN activities implemented in Lalitpur to extend safe drinking water service in the area.

Partnership for Safe Water- a unique private public partnership, was initiated by Government of Nepal, UN HABITAT, Bottlers Nepal, Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO) and Urban Environment Management Society (UEMS) to reduce water borne diseases in several communities through the promotion of simple Household Water Treatment (HWT) options such as boiling, filtration, chlorination and SODIS. In addition, the campaign is also conducting door to door visit, demonstrating informative street drama and providing capacity building training to women groups.

It has already declared three communities in Lalitpur as the Safe Water Zone, where household drinking water treatment options are practiced in every household of the community, which has remarkably decreased the incidence of water borne diseases.

OHCHR concerned on the rights of conflict victims



Liwang, Rolpa, 15 Oct: United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal (OHCHR-Nepal) in conjunction with local human rights organizations, INSEC and Advocacy Forum, has concluded a training in Rolpa which focused on the rights of conflict victims and aimed at raising awareness and understanding of the basic human rights. The training also provided an opportunity for the participants to discuss common concerns to build better mutual understanding.

Thirty-four conflict victims of the State and the then Communist Party of Nepal actively participated in the workshop. A majority of the victims were kin and kith of the killed and disappeared persons. The participation of women victims was more than fifty percent.

Following the training sessions on basic human rights, rights of conflict victims, Transitional Justice mechanisms and advocacy for victims rights, the participants raised their concerns which included financial support, and other kind of benefits to improve their livelihood. They also stated that transitional justice mechanism should be victim friendly and accessible.

Conflict victims regardless of their political affiliations,

expressed the need for joint advocacy for their rights. It was the first ever event which brought together victims of both sides to discuss common concerns, this effort by OHCHR Nepal was highly appreciated. The participants requested OHCHR to conduct another program which could contribute to strengthening their expertise on advocacy. One of the local partner organizations, INSEC expressed interest in wishing to replicate the training at the VDC level. OHCHR will organize a follow up mission in the near future.

Important Links

Agenda of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly (A/64/251)

English, French & Spanish: http://www.un.org/qa/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/64/251

New Websites launched for United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases

English: <http://www.un.org/en/unpress/>

Blue Carbon - The Role of Healthy Oceans in Binding Carbon (UNEP / FAO / UNESCO)

<http://www.grida.no/publications/rr/blue-carbon/>

UN Events Calendar for November

November 06: International Day For Preventing The Exploitation Of The Environment In War And Armed Conflict

On 5 November 2001, the General Assembly declared 6 November of each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict (resolution 56/4). In taking this action, it considered that damage to the environment in times of armed conflict impairs ecosystems and natural resources long after the period of conflict, often extending beyond the limits of national territories and the present generation.

November 14: World Diabetes Day

On December 20 2006, the General Assembly passed a resolution (A/RES/61/225) recognizing diabetes as a chronic, debilitating and costly disease. The resolution designates World Diabetes Day as a United Nations Day to be observed every year starting in 2007.

November 16: International Day For Tolerance

In 1996, the General Assembly invited Member States to observe the International Day for Tolerance on 16 November, with activities directed towards both educational establishments and the wider public (resolution 51/95 of 12 December). This action came in the wake of the United Nations Year for Tolerance, 1995, proclaimed by the Assembly in 1993 (resolution 48/126). The Year had been declared on the initiative of the General Conference of UNESCO; on 16 November 1995, the UNESCO member States had adopted the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and Follow-up Plan of Action for the Year. URL: <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/tolerance>

November 20: Africa Industrialization Day

Within the framework of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, the General Assembly proclaimed 20 November as Africa Industrialization Day (resolution 44/237 of 22 December 1989). The Day is intended to mobilize the commitment of the international community to the industrialization of Africa.

November 20: Universal Children's Day

By resolution 836(IX) of 14 December 1954, the General Assembly recommended that all countries institute a Universal Children's Day, to be observed as a day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children. It recommended that the Day was to be observed also as a day of activity devoted to promoting the ideals and objectives of the Charter and the welfare of the children of the world. The date 20 November, marks the day on

which the Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, in 1959, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in 1989. URL: http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/children_day

November 21: World Television Day

In 1996, the General Assembly proclaimed 21 November as World Television Day, commemorating the date on which, the first World Television Forum was held at the United Nations. States were invited to observe the Day by encouraging global exchanges of television programmes focusing on issues such as peace, security, economic and social development, and the enhancement of cultural exchanges (Resolution 51/205 of 17 December).

November 25: International Day For The Elimination Of Violence Against Women

By resolution 54/134 of 17 December 1999, the General Assembly designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and invited governments, international organizations and NGOs to organize activities designated to raise public awareness of the problem on that day. Women's activists have marked 25 November as a day against violence since 1981. This date came from the brutal assassination in 1960, of the three Mirabal sisters, political activists in the Dominican Republic, on orders of Dominican ruler Rafael Trujillo (1930-1961). URL: <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/violence>

November 29: International Day Of Solidarity With The Palestinian People

In 1977, the General Assembly called for the annual observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (resolution 32/40 B). On that day, in 1947, the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine (resolution 181 (II)). URL: <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/palestinian/index.html>

